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General debate

Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations

Letter dated 5 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

At the just concluded general debate of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly, a very small number of countries once again raised the so-called question of "Taiwan's participant at the United Nations". Upon the instruction of the Chinese Government, I hereby state the following position:

1. The "one China" principle is universally recognized by the international community. The vast majority of States Members of the United Nations have diplomatic relations with China. They all acknowledge, without a single exception, that there is only one China in the world, that the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal Government representing the whole of China and that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China. Resolution 2758 of 25 October 1971, adopted at the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly, decided unequivocally to restore the lawful seat of the People's Republic of China at the United Nations and, at the same time, to immediately expel the Taiwan authorities, who were claiming to represent China, "from the place which they unlawfully occupy at the United Nations and in all the organizations related to it". That resolution reaffirmed the "one China" principle and settled once and for all and in a just and comprehensive manner the question of China's representation at the United Nations. It conformed to the historical trend and reflected the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations. It is of great historical and practical significance.

2. The United Nations is an intergovernmental organization composed of sovereign States. Article 4 of the Charter clearly stipulates that membership in the United Nations is open only to sovereign States. As a province of China, Taiwan is in no position whatsoever to participate in activities of the United Nations or its specialized agencies. At the instigation of the Taiwan authorities, a handful of countries have raised the so-called question of "Taiwan's representation at the United Nations" openly at the General Assembly forum in an attempt to create "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan" at the United Nations. Such an illegal act has trampled on the purposes and principles of the Charter and General Assembly resolution 2758. Constituting an encroachment on China's sovereignty and

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territorial integrity and interference in China's internal affairs, this act has backed up the divisionary activities by Taiwan authorities and undermined China's peaceful reunification. The Chinese Government and people express strong indignation at and condemnation of such act. At the same time, such an illegal act has naturally met with strong opposition from the vast number of justice-upholding States Members of the United Nations. Since 1993, the General Committee of the successive sessions of the General Assembly has flatly refused to put the so-called question of "Taiwan's participation at the United Nations" on the agenda of the General Assembly. This has fully demonstrated the strong resolve of the vast number of Member States to safeguard the purposes and principles of the Charter and General Assembly resolution 2758. We wish most sincerely to thank those countries that have upheld justice and supported China's national reunification. At the same time, we strongly believe that divisionary activities, against the historical trend, to create "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan", and attempts to support these activities, are all doomed to failure.

3. The question of Taiwan is purely an internal matter of China and a matter for the Chinese people themselves that brooks no interference by any country or individual in any way, under whatever pretext. Settlement of the question of Taiwan and reunification of the motherland are the solemn and lofty missions of all Chinese, including those on Taiwan. The fundamental policy of the Chinese Government on this issue is "peaceful reunification and one country, two systems". This policy has taken into account the paramount interest of national development and the long-term interest of the entire Chinese population. It has also accommodated and helped protect the fundamental interest of Taiwan compatriots and Taiwan's need for development. Under the guidance of this policy, Hong Kong has returned to China and Macao will return to the embrace of the motherland soon. The issue of Taiwan will also be solved and it will not drag on for too long. We are confident that the just cause of the Chinese Government and people to safeguard State sovereignty and territorial integrity will continue to have the understanding and support of the Governments and people of the vast majority of States Members of the United Nations.

I have the honour to request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly under items 9 and 57 of the agenda.

(*Signed*) **Qin** Huasun
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to the United Nations